



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Redevelopment Board Minutes 03/06/2006

Arlington Redevelopment Board
Minutes of March 6, 2006

Members Present: Ed Tsoi
Roland Chaput
Andrew West
Christopher Loreti

Also Present: Kevin J. O'Brien

Ed Tsoi called the meeting to order at 7:00 and opened the public hearing on the special permit application by Watertown Savings Bank at 980 Massachusetts Avenue. Architect Paul Bourbeau presented the proposal to significantly remodel the existing building and continue its use as a bank with drive-thru tellers.

The Board discussed the proposal at length. Chris Loreti wanted assurance that the new ground signs were at least 5 feet back from the property line. Ed Tsoi expressed concern that drivers leaving the leftmost lane of the drive-thru tellers cannot see pedestrians walking south on the sidewalk. Bank representatives said they would figure out a signal to warn pedestrians. Ed Tsoi also mentioned that the 6 foot high fence on the rear property lines must taper to a lower elevation where it approaches the street so cars can see over it. The Bank also agreed to narrow the Mass. Ave entrance by constructing a sidewalk or planting area on the east side of the entrance. Roland Chaput asked that they include as many native plants in their landscaping plan. It was pointed out that the "No Parking" signs were larger than allowed and may not contain the company name.

Roland Chaput moved and Chris Loreti seconded the motion to approve the special permit. The Board voted 4 to 0 to approve the permit with the changes discussed. The Board asked that a mock-up of the three stone-like materials be set up at the site.

Andrew West moved and Chris Loreti seconded the motion to enter executive session to discuss the Symmes project litigation which discussion if held in open session would have a harmful effect on the litigation. Kevin O'Brien polled the Board members: Chris Loreti – yes, Ed Tsoi – yes, Roland Chaput – yes, Andrew West – yes.

At 9:30, the Board left executive session and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin J. O'Brien



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Andrew West moved and Chris Loreti seconded the motion to enter executive session to discuss the Symmes project litigation which discussion if held in open session would have a harmful effect on the litigation. Kevin O'Brien polled the Board members: Chris Loreti – yes, Ed Tsoi – yes, Roland Chaput – yes, Andrew West – yes.

Kevin O'Brien reported on the progress of the settlement negotiations between the appellants and the developer. The Board discussed the financial implications of the potential settlement terms.

Chris Loreti moved and Andrew West seconded the motion to leave executive session. Kevin O'Brien polled the Board members: Chris Loreti – yes, Ed Tsoi – yes, Roland Chaput – yes, Andrew West – yes.

At 9:30, the Board left executive session and adjourned.

submitted,

O'Brien

Respectfully

Kevin J.